DECLASSIFIED 0-123

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January 22, 1982

EXCISE

MEMORANDUM FOR: CA - Diego C. Asencio

FROM: OCS - Robert B. Lane, Deputy

SUBJECT: Draft letter to Ambassador Hinton reference Sullivan case

Attached is draft re subject for your consideration.

Attachment:

As stated.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE 11/29/83
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☐
RELEASE DENIED☐ in part
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS (b)(5)

Dear Dean:

[redacted]

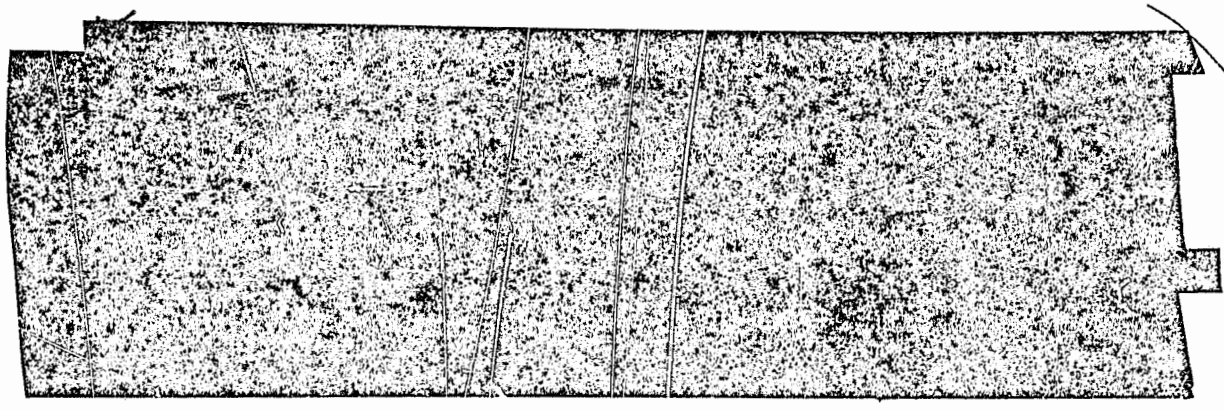
(b)(5)

(b)(5)

As I understand it, you were asked some questions during a press conference January 13 about the Sullivan case. You responded appropriately and accurately that the letter received in October appeared to be part of an extortion attempt. Unfortunately, the enclosed UPI story, which was carried in several papers as well as the New York Times, quotes you as saying that both letters were considered extortion attempts. Immediately upon seeing this article, both the family and Congresswoman Roukema's office called us, upset over what they perceived as an abrupt decision on your part to write

The Honorable
Dean Hinton,
American Ambassador,
San Salvador,
El Salvador.

the second letter off as another extortion attempt. Although we called the Embassy immediately, it was not until January 18 that we had in hand the exact text of your statement to the press and were able to explain to the family at all what had actually transpired. By this time, however, the letter to the Secretary was on its way and the damage, including some CBS television coverage, was done.



(b)(5)

I am certain you understand the position we are both in concerning this case and that I can continue to count on your cooperation and on close coordination between our staffs.

Sincerely,

Diego C. Asencio

Enclosures:

Newspaper article.

Earlier this week, Lambrinos' office again called the Citizens Emergency Center to inquire if someone at the embassy had stated publicly that the embassy had recently received a phone call from the putative author of the [illegible] letters. [illegible] one of the EMR officers immediately called the embassy to check that story out and was told that [illegible] story had no basis in fact; that [illegible] Flatt the author [illegible] made such [illegible]

CA/OCS/EMR-JLWard:rgr
1/22/82 x-25225

CA/OCS/EMR-EEMartinez had not received such a phone call and that no such article
CA/OCS-RBLane
ARA/CEN-RBraibanti [illegible] be spoken to such a question.